

SOUTHEAST HIGH SPEED RAIL

www.sehsr.org

May 12, 2000

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
506 Hart Building
2nd & C Streets, NE
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

The safe and efficient movement of people and goods is essential to the social and economic well being of our nation. To achieve a strong intermodal transportation system, long term capital financing is needed. While predictable financial resources are available for investment in highways, public transportation and aviation, intercity passenger rail lacks a long-term source of capital. Ironically, passenger and freight railroads are capital intensive industries that provide sustained social and economic, public and private benefits over extended periods of time.

As you prepare your agenda for the remaining days of this Congress, we urge you to give the highest priority to enactment of a national financing mechanism for intercity rail. S 1900 and HR 3700 meet this need. The Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor would derive an immediate benefit. State investments coupled with thoughtful federal planning efforts have positioned the corridor to promptly complete implementation initiatives and offer improved intercity passenger rail service. It is critical to note that such services would only be undertaken with the active support of our freight partners. Equally important, passage of the legislation would have no impact on highway or transit funding commitments.

This legislation would benefit passenger and freight rail transportation. It would preserve the environment by making rail usage more competitive with other modes. Therefore, we urge the adoption of "The High Speed Rail Investment Act."

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,



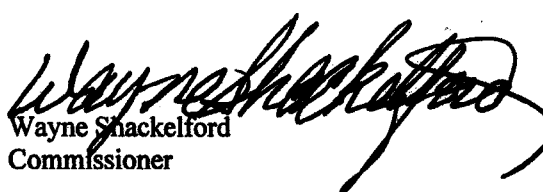
Shirley J. Ybarra
Secretary of Transportation



David T. McCoy
Secretary



Elizabeth S. Mabry
Executive Director



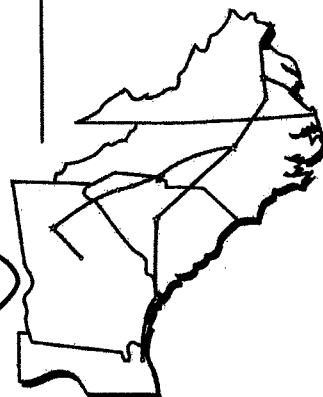
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cc: SEHSR Congressional Delegation